

**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Parking and By-law Services Division**

<b>TO:</b> Chair and Members Planning Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> WARDS 6 and 7
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> November 20, 2012	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program – Concession Street Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.) (PED12225) (Wards 6 and 7)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Tim McCabe General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Ted Arnold (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6006
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the annual Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program, approved by City Council on June 25, 2003, be amended to include free on-street parking, on a trial basis for one Christmas season, from December 10 to December 24, 2012, and limited to two hours in duration, for the Concession Street Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this Report is to request City Council’s approval of a revision to the Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program as requested by the Concession Street Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.).

**Alternatives for Consideration** – N/A

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (for Recommendation(s) only)

**Financial:** Allowing the Concession Street B.I.A. to participate in the Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program will result in the loss of approximately \$5,000 in parking meter revenues which can be absorbed in the annual operating budget.

**Staffing/Legal:** N/A

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (Chronology of events)

In 2003, staff consulted with Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Areas (H.A.B.I.A.) and individual Business Improvement Areas (B.I.A.) to develop a consistent Pre-Christmas Parking Program. The resulting Council-approved Program provided free on-street parking (with a two hour limit) in B.I.A.s from November 24 to December 24 annually, except in Westdale, Dundas and on Ottawa Street where the details differ as there are different needs and desires. At that time, Concession Street chose not to participate in the “free” Christmas Parking Program because of concerns related to employee and visitor parking associated with the Henderson Hospital (now the Juravinski Hospital).

On July 12, 2012, City Council approved a recommendation to include Ancaster in the Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program from November 24 to December 24 annually.

On October 24, 2012 City Council approved a recommendation to remove the King Street West B.I.A. from the Pre-Christmas Parking Program.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

N/A

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

The participation of the Concession Street B.I.A. in the Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program is consistent with the 2003 direction of City Council, although the duration of the “free” parking is limited to the two week period prior to Christmas which is not consistent with any other B.I.A. However, Council has approved different program details based on the needs and wants of each B.I.A.

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There is concern that staff of the Juravinski Hospital may take advantage of the program such that space may be limited for patrons of the Concession Street businesses. Therefore, the request is for 2012 only as the B.I.A. wishes to pilot the program and evaluate its effect on the B.I.A. Upon a positive evaluation, staff would report to City Council requesting permanent inclusion of the Concession Street B.I.A. in the Pre-Christmas Free Parking Program.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

N/A

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)**

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development, 6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

***Financial Sustainability***

- The Hamilton Municipal Parking System is a self-sustaining business unit which receives no levy funding for current or capital operations.

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

N/A

TA/dt